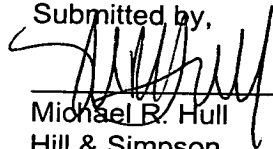


States patent practice. No new matter is added thereby.

The cancellation of Claims 1-6 in favor of new Claims 7-12 is done solely because amending Claims 1-6 by brackets and underlining would be extremely cumbersome in view of the large number of editorial changes which are necessary. The cancellation of Claims 1-6, therefore, is not intended to constitute a surrender of any of the subject matter of those claims, all of which is still being claimed in Claims 7-12.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



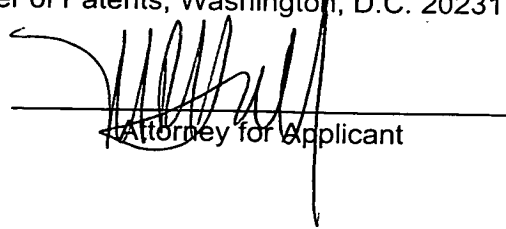
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL270381669US in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 8, 1999.

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Attorney for Applicant